

REMARKS

This Reply is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on September 14, 2005. This reply is accompanied by a Petition to Revive and Application for Patent Unintentionally Abandoned Under 37 C.F.R. 1.137 (b). By this amendment Applicants have canceled claims 3, 6, 11, 14, 19 and 22. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 12, 13, 15-18, 20, 21, 23-27 are pending in this application.

Applicants have amended the specification to describe a first and second pair of opposed lateral flanges with each flange having a generally flat facing surface. This amendment is supported by FIG. 4, and, therefore, does not add new matter.

The Examiner has objected to Figures 2 and 3. Applicants have submitted herewith replacement drawings with the caption "Prior Art" above FIG. 2 and FIG. 3 as requested by the Examiner. Also, applicants have submitted new FIG. 4 showing reference numerals 71, 73, 81 and 83 referring to the opposed lateral flanges and generally flat facing surfaces.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) in view of Kamp '268 and separately in view of Johnson '329. The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) in view of Ishimatsu '442. The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) in view of Gould '911. The Examiner has also rejected claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ishimatsu, Kamp, Gould, Johnson and Custer et al. '380. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9 and 17 to recite a front and back zipper profile having opposed lateral flanges each with a generally flat facing surface wherein the flat facing surfaces of the front zipper profile abut the flat facing surfaces of the back zipper profile when the front profile is engaged with the back zipper profile. None of these references alone or in combination disclose these recited features, and, therefore, the references do not anticipate or render obvious these claims as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of these rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) and 103 (a).

Applicants submit that these amendments place the claims in condition for allowance and request an early notice of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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